

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-63. (Cancelled)

64. (Currently amended) A pallet, comprising:

at least one top support member adapted to support cargo, wherein said top support member has a top surface and a bottom surface;

at least one bottom support member having a top surface and a bottom surface; and

a plurality of solid support blocks positioned between the bottom surface of the top support member and the top surface of the bottom support member, wherein the blocks are spaced apart a sufficient distance to receive a lifting member therebetween; and

a plurality of fasteners that are provided to fasten the at least one top support member and the at least bottom support member to the solid support blocks, wherein the plurality of fasteners consist of nails,

~~wherein the support blocks each have a cross-sectional shape selected from the group consisting of an oval, a teardrop, an egg shape, an elongated hexagon, a diamond shape and a kite shape, defining a longitudinal axis of the support block; and~~

wherein the solid support blocks ~~are solid and~~ are formed from a composite material comprising at least one cellular material having ~~particle sizes between about 0.05 mm and about 4 mm~~ and at least one thermoplastic material, ~~the concentration of the cellular material in the composite comprising between about 40 percent and about 60 percent such that nails may be driven directly into the composite material.~~

65. (Currently amended) The pallet according to claim 64, wherein the plurality of solid support blocks comprise nine support blocks, wherein a first group of three support blocks are positioned in a first row adjacent a first edge of the pallet, a second group of three support blocks are positioned in a second row across the center of the pallet, and a third group of three support blocks are positioned in a third row adjacent a second edge of the pallet.

66. (Previously presented) The pallet according to claim 65, wherein the first, second and third rows are positioned substantially parallel to each other and are aligned so that the support blocks guide a lifting member into a lifting position under the at least one top support member.

67. (Previously presented) The pallet according to claim 65, wherein the top support member comprises at least three cross supports positioned generally parallel to each other, wherein the first, second, and third rows of support blocks support the three cross supports, and wherein the top support member further comprises a plate coupled to a top surface of the three cross supports and forming the top surface of the top support member.

68. (Previously presented) The pallet according to claim 64, wherein the thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene and polyethylene.

69. (Previously presented) The pallet according to claim 68, wherein the polyethylene has a density between about 0.9 grams per cubic centimeter and about 0.98 grams per cubic centimeter.

70. (Previously presented) The pallet according to claim 68, wherein the polyethylene is selected from the group consisting of a linear low density polyethylene, an ultra low density polyethylene, a low density polyethylene, a high density polyethylene, and an ultra high molecular weight polyethylene.

71. (Previously presented) The pallet according to claim 68, wherein the polypropylene is formed from the group consisting of homopolymers and copolymers having densities between about 0.8 grams per cubic centimeter and about 0.99 grams per cubic centimeter.

72. (Previously presented) The pallet according to claim 64, wherein the thermoplastic material is a thermosetting resin selected from the group consisting of polyesters, epoxies and vinyesters.

73. (Previously presented) The pallet according to claim 64, wherein the cellular material has particle sizes between about 0.1mm and about 1mm.

74. (Previously presented) The pallet according to claim 73, wherein the cellular material has particle sizes between about 0.177mm and about 0.42mm.

75. (Previously presented) The pallet according to claim 64, wherein the cellular material is selected from the group consisting of wood, linen flax shives, bagasse from sugar cane, jute, rice husks, paper fiber, recycled paper, nut shells, cornhusks, and bamboo.

76. (Cancelled)

77. (Currently amended) The pallet according to claim 64, wherein at least one of the plurality of solid support blocks comprises blocks comprise first and second substantially flat surfaces located on opposite ends of the longitudinal axis.

78. (Currently amended) The pallet according to claim 77, wherein the at least one of the plurality of solid support blocks comprises blocks comprise third and fourth substantially flat surfaces positioned on sides of the support block between the ends.

79. (New) The pallet according to claim 64, wherein the plurality of solid support blocks have a cross-sectional shape selected from the group consisting of an oval, a teardrop, an egg shape, an elongated hexagon, a diamond shape and a kite shape, defining a longitudinal axis of the solid support block.

80. (New) The pallet according to claim 64, wherein the at least one cellular material includes particle sizes between about 0.05mm and about 4mm.

81. (New) The pallet according to claim 64, wherein a concentration of the cellular material in the composite is between about 40 percent and about 60 percent.